



United States Department of Agriculture

Research, Education, and Economics
Agricultural Research Service

October 30, 2015

Matthew Flis, AICP, Senior Urban Designer
National Capital Planning Commission
401 Ninth Street, NW,
North Lobby, Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20004-2140

Dear Mr. Flis:

This letter serves as a formal request for the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) to review for concept approval at their December 3 meeting, the Concept (15%) design submission for the National China Garden at the U.S. National Arboretum. This project has already been submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts and the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office for review and approval/concurrence. Project participants include the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS), the U.S. National Arboretum (USNA), and the National China Garden Foundation (NCGF).

The vision for the National China Garden grew out of the 2004 agreement between China's Ministry of Forestry and the USDA to build a classical Chinese Garden in Washington, D.C., as a gift to the American people from the People's Republic of China. A collaboration between a Chinese classical garden design team and a team of U.S. professionals is preparing the design, implementing the general concept shown in the approved Master Plan Update for the USNA. The landscape and structures are derived from classical gardens of the Ming and Qing Dynasties within a setting of gardens, lake and naturalized vistas. Accessible pathways and limited parking are provided. Also included are rockeries, water, scenic views, plantings and examples of decorative arts – the five key components of classical Chinese gardens – to allow a complete understanding of the history, materials, and atmosphere of this unique art form.

We thank you and your staff for your time and effort to review this project, and we look forward to receiving the NCPC's approval on the concept design.

Sincerely,



RAMON JORDAN
Associate Director and Liaison to NCGF

Enclosures

R. Olsen, USDA, ARS, USNA
L. Bynum, USDA, ARS, BARC
S. Gibson, NCGF
T. McCarthy, PSP
F. Harwell, RHI

U.S. National Arboretum
Director's Office
3501 New York Avenue, N.E.
Washington, DC 20002

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